



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
CLEANUP

September 18, 2013

Natacha Hsiao Ling Sesko
c/o Kenneth Lassiter
1305 Nipsic Avenue
Bremerton, WA 98310

Dear Ms. Sesko:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is in receipt of your letter dated September 5, 2013 that raises some concerns related to the Bremerton Gasworks Superfund Site (Site). I believe there are some misunderstandings that have developed and would like to take the opportunity in this letter to provide the EPA's perspective on the issues you have raised.

The first concern you raised relates to communications with the EPA's On-Scene Coordinator, Kathy Parker, regarding the attendance of Mr. Lassiter at the Site visit on August 21, 2013. As you may recall, Ms. Parker sent an email on August 15, 2013 to Mr. Lassiter. You were copied on that email. In that email Ms. Parker explained that the meeting was not open to the public; however, she also said that Mr. Lassiter could attend the meeting if you chose to have him accompany you. When Mr. Lassiter did not participate in the entire Site visit, the EPA assumed that you had not asked him to join you.

With respect to Ms. Parker's statements about the sale of your property, Ms. Parker recalls inquiring whether you ever considered selling the property, but she did not make any demands that you sell the property, nor did she ask about a potential sale price.

The upcoming removal action at the Site will involve work that would affect a manhole on your property. Any work that is performed on this manhole may affect drainage on your property. Ms. Parker was simply informing you that there may be a need for drainage work to be conducted by you on your property after the removal action is completed.

You have raised several concerns regarding Lent's Incorporated's affiliation with the Site. The EPA appreciates receiving the information you provided regarding Lent's operation at the Site. As you know, Cascade Natural Gas (CNG) has stepped forward to conduct the investigatory and removal work that is currently being conducted. As a result of CNG's willingness to cooperate with the EPA, the EPA has not, thus far, demanded the involvement of other PRPs in the work currently being conducted. The EPA is in the process of identifying additional potentially responsible parties (PRPs) at the Site and will be sending notice letters to other PRPs in the future. Under the Comprehensive Environmental, Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), current owners of property within the Site, past owners at the time of the release of hazardous substances, generators of hazardous waste, and transporters of waste to the Site are PRPs. Any viable entity falling in one of those categories at this Site may be required to fund work at the Site either through contribution actions or by paying for or conducting the work directly.

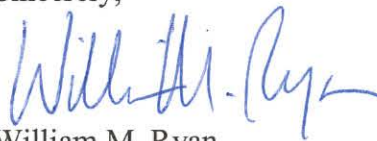
You have alleged a "conflict of interest" on the part of the EPA with respect to the EPA's relationship with the City of Bremerton. The City is a key stakeholder at the Site and the EPA will continue to coordinate with the City, as well as you and other parties, in order to achieve the most efficient and effective investigation and cleanup at the Site. The fact that Mayor Lent has a family connection to Lent's Incorporated does not mean that there is a conflict of interest created by the EPA's coordination with the City on matters related to the Site. The Superfund site is located within the City of Bremerton and, as such, the EPA has a responsibility to coordinate with the City as we conduct our work.

You have also expressed disappointment that the EPA has not publicized Lent's Incorporated's involvement at the Site. As your letter states, the documents you have identified related to Lent's Incorporated are all publicly available and any public information that the EPA receives remains available to the public. Should anyone wish to obtain any of those documents that are in the EPA's possession, they can receive them from the EPA upon request. As work on the Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study progresses and the EPA gains a better understanding of the contamination and its sources, the EPA will continue to identify and pursue, as appropriate, viable parties to participate in the cleanup.

Finally, we would like clarification of Mr. Lassiter's official capacity with you on topics related to the Site. There appear to be a couple of titles that he is currently using on correspondence with the EPA, such as JD (Juris Doctor) and Research and Language Assistant and we need to understand whether Mr. Lassiter has been retained by you as legal counsel. If he has, the EPA needs to know this as we are required to handle correspondence from legal counsel in a different manner than we would from you.

I hope this letter has addressed the topics raised in your letter. As always, please feel free to contact me directly with any questions or concerns you may have related to our activities at the Site. My phone number is 206-553-8561 and my email address is ryan.william@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



William M. Ryan
Remedial Project Manager